

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
FREDERICK SENIOR CENTER
November 10, 2008**

DOA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
William P. Allen, PhD	Susan M Ramsburg Recording Sec	Susan M. Adams		
Harold A. Ehart, Jr., Chair	Carolyn True	Earl S. Beck, PhD		
David Gray, Comm.		Rae Ann Butler		
Lloyd Hoover				
Alan Imhoff, Alderman				
Ona M. John Kile				
Louise Lynch				
Burt Shawver				
Virginia Skelley				
Anna Mary Snyder				
Robert Wannemacher				

- I. **Call to Order – Hal Ehart, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Hal Ehart welcomed all attendees and introductions/affiliations were made.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – - The minutes of the September 8, 2008 and the October 6, 2008 meeting were approved without changes. All were in favor.
- IV. **Commissioner's Report** – No report at this time.
- V. **Property Tax Credit and other housing programs, Brad Peterson and Joe Baldi, Frederick Community Action Agency** – Various programs were discussed during this presentation. The Maryland Tax Credit is income driven and open to anyone. The County portion of this program is automatically applied for via the State program. This program is typically applied for during the tax return process. Another

option allows property taxes to be deferred until the property deed is transferred. This program is not popular due to the lien put on property for deferred taxes. The Homestead Property Tax credit limits taxable assessment to 10% or less each year. A reverse mortgage allows homeowners to use the equity in their home for a loan which is not paid back until property is transferred. The property taxes and insurance would still need to be paid by homeowner. A program is available through FCAA which audits homes for energy efficiency and helps with repairs that maximize energy savings. The Frederick Community Action Agency has a wide range of services available.

VI. Status of Thurmont Senior Center lease agreement, Carolyn True

A meeting was held in October to discuss the use of the building. It was a very positive meeting. There was a lot of good interaction and communication. The County Attorney's office is in the process of drafting a Memorandum of Understanding that will contain the information that all parties would like to have included. Hopefully this will be resolved and signed in January, 2009.

Report from the Nominating Committee, Hal Ehart – The committee has recommended Judy Peterson be added as a member of the Commission. She was formerly the Director of Red Cross and will be an asset to this commission. All were in favor of this appointment.

VII. United Seniors of MD (USM) Rally, Louise Lynch – The USM Rally will be on January 27, 2009. The theme is "Aging in Place" which will promote services/programs which help seniors stay in their home. There will be a speaker from the USM at next month's meeting in Thurmont. Everyone on this commission is encouraged to attend the upcoming rally. One of the DoA vans can be used to transport a group from Frederick if enough are willing to attend. The registration fee is \$15. We need to contact our delegation to make sure they plan to attend.

VIII. Director's Report, Carolyn True – There is news on several programs which involve the senior centers.

Senior Center Programs – The Weatherization programs which were held at each center this fall were very successful. There were over 150 participants. The information was very useful and timely. The program will be repeated next year.

11/10/08

Open Enrollment for Medicare D – Appointments will be available for seniors to come in and discuss their options for MC-D plans.

Volunteers will be available three days each week from November 17 through December 31. There has been a steady response from seniors calling for appointments.

National Family Caregiver Month – November is the month to recognize family caregivers. Speakers have been scheduled on various topics on Thursdays this month.

Farmers Market Coupons – All of the coupons that were available this year were distributed to seniors. This is a good program which helps meet nutritional needs for seniors. The redemption rate is not known at this time, but should be available in a couple months.

IX. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 2:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg,
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

December 8, 2008 – COA Meeting at 1:00 pm, Thurmont Senior Center, 806 East Main Street, Thurmont, MD 21788. If you plan to have lunch, please make a reservation no later than 9am on December 4, 2008 by calling 301-271-7911.

January 12, 2009, COA Meeting at 1:00, Frederick Senior Center, 1440 Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD 21702

USM Rally, Annapolis – January 27, 2009